

# Academic Affairs Draft Strategic Plan

Tim Greene, Provost and  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

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# What the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan Must Do

- Establish principled behaviors by which we make decisions
- Establish the primacy of academics
- Establish us as a distinctive university
- Establish quality as defined by objective measures



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# What the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan Must Do

- Must set a direction for the university that is clear and exciting
- Must be implemented



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# Thoughts on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan

- We have been asking for a “vision for the academic enterprise” for many years
- Academic Affairs is the engine of the University
- A plan puts us in control of our own destiny
- Our opportunity to set the academic direction of the University



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# Thoughts on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan (Continued)

- How can we create a bold plan?
- How can we create a bold plan in the face of financial difficulties?



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# Thoughts on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan (Continued)

- Will put meaning to the phrase “a student centered research university”
- Will be collectively envisioned and individually implemented
- Should motivate and inspire



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# Thoughts on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan (Continued)

- Will bring about a discussion of what best benefits our students and the University
- Will drive the budgeting process



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## Note

**The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan is still a work in progress—we anticipate considerable input from many people and expect to see many changes in the plan before it is finalized**



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# What Has the Discussion Been to Date?

- Deans began meeting in April
- Deans met weekly or twice a week for two or more hours
- Deans reviewed a substantial amount of information
- Multiple drafts were created



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# What Has the Discussion Been to Date (Continued)?

- Tim Greene joined in many of the discussions
- The Vice Provosts were brought into the discussions
- The President joined in the discussions several times and participated in two lengthy retreats



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# What Has the Discussion Been to Date (Continued)?

- The Chairs, Directors, and Associate Deans joined the Deans and Vice Provosts for a day and a quarter retreat on August 31 and September 1



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# What Has the Discussion Been to Date (Continued)?

- The Faculty Senate Executive Board was briefed on September 4
- The draft you will see is version 16 and there were many iterations between the main versions



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## **Note**

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# How Will We Finalize The Plan?

- The plan will be posted on the Web (GoWMU portal) on Monday
- All WMU faculty and staff will be invited to review it and e-mail comments to Office-of-the-  
Provost@wmich.edu
- Several open forums will be held for faculty and staff to discuss the plan



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# How Will We Finalize The Plan (Continued)?

- Chairs and Directors have been asked to hold unit discussions on the plan and forward input to their Deans
- Faculty Senate Councils and Committees may want to discuss the plan and forward comments through Faculty Senate President Jellies and the Faculty Senate Executive Board which will then flow to Provost Greene



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# How Will We Finalize The Plan (Continued)?

- The Provost will present the plan to WSA and GSAC to get their input
- The Provost and the Deans will be available to attend unit faculty meetings to discuss the plan and receive input



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# How Will We Finalize The Plan (Continued)?

- The Deans and the Provost will review the input from the academic community
- Deans will bring forward their recommendations to the Provost



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# How Will We Finalize The Plan (Continued)?

- The Provost will finalize a plan which will be taken to President Dunn for his review and approval
- The finalized plan will be presented to the academic community



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# How Will We Finalize The Plan— Schedule

- Discussions from now through November
- Provost Council, President and Provost's final discussions in late November and early December
- Final Academic Affairs Strategic Plan completed by the beginning of the spring semester



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# How Will We Finalize The Plan— Schedule (Continued)

- Development of the implementation plan will occur in the spring semester
- The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan will be regularly reviewed and updated by the academic community



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# The Current Structure Of The Plan

- Flows from the University's Mission and Goals
- Academic Purpose
- Academic Affairs Mission
- Academic Affairs Values
- Goals, strategies, and metrics for success



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# A Portion of the Academic Affairs Mission

- Student centrality in premier undergraduate and graduate education encompassing the arts, sciences, and professions
- Excellence in teaching and learning, research, professional practice, creative endeavor, and service to the University and external community
- Leadership that advances the University's mission and goals



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# Academic Affairs Values

- Learning and freedom of inquiry
- Scholarship and creative endeavor
- Civic and social responsibility
- Respectful, diverse, and inclusive community
- Productive student-faculty engagement
- Ethical behavior and integrity
- Shared governance
- Performance-based assessment



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# The Current Structure Of The Plan— Five Areas

- Baccalaureate Teaching, Learning, and Research
- Graduate Teaching, Learning, and Research
- Research and Creative Endeavor
- The Academic Community
- The Greater Community



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# The Current Structure Of The Plan— Within the Five Areas

- Goals
- Strategies
- Sample Metrics of Success
  - From X to Y



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# The Current Structure Of The Plan— Within Graduate Teaching, Learning, and Research—Two Goals

- Goal 4. Offer distinctive graduate programs that prepare students to be successful in their lives and careers



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# Some Questions To Consider

- Are these the right goals?
  - Do they set a bold direction for Academic Affairs?
  - Should we have fewer goals? More?
- Are these the right strategies?
  - Should we have other strategies?
  - Do these strategies match what you think your unit is doing or will be doing?



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# Some Questions To Consider (Continued)

- Are these the right metrics for success?
  - If we measure these variables, will they indicate that the University is growing in the right directions?



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# Some Things I Am Looking For In The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan

- Direction, inspiration and motivation
- Ability to define ourselves
  - Distinctiveness
  - Excellence
  - Quality
- A feeling across campus of self direction



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# Some Things I Am Looking For In The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan (Continued)

- Moves us from a regional university to a national and international university
- Ties us back to “A Student Centered Research University”



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# Closing Questions

- Is the plan too bold or not bold enough?
- How does the plan tie to my college's or unit's plan?
- How will my colleagues and I engage in a meaningful discussion of the draft plan?



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Finally,  
The plan is still in draft form.  
We need and want you and your  
colleagues' inputs



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